



Photo by John McIntosh

**Church Resource Packet  
Adoption Sunday 2004  
November 14<sup>th</sup>**

**November is National Adoption Awareness Month!**

Dear Friends,

On November 14<sup>th</sup> 2004, churches of Christian faith across the St. Louis area will join together in celebration "Adoption Sunday". We are asking for your help! Please consider designating this special Sunday as a time to honor and celebrate adoption in your faith community. You may be asking, "Why should the church celebrate adoption?" The answers are easy. Across America over 129,000 children wait for a "forever family." In the state of Missouri 1,952 children are waiting for an adoptive family. They are of all colors and ages. Many are sibling groups hoping to remain together. The church can be a powerful influence in connecting children to families and a beacon in the community for demonstrating love through its ministries. We hope you will join us in marking Adoption Sunday on November 14<sup>th</sup>! Your celebration could be as simple as an announcement and a handout or as detailed as you can dream. The possibilities are ENDLESS! Below are suggestions that may be helpful in your planning:

1. Ask a person from your congregation who has been adopted, or is an adoptive parent to give a personal testimony during the service of how their life has been touched or changed by adoption.
2. Prepare a special bulletin insert with adoption/foster care agency contact numbers and information. You may request inserts from The Adoption Exchange at no charge. Please indicate how many copies you will need.
3. Organize an adoption resource display table for your lobby.
4. Invite families connected through adoption or foster care to stand for recognition or a special prayer during your service.
5. Invite families connected through adoption to wear a token of recognition (ribbon, flower, or button); You may request ribbons and bookmarks from The Adoption Exchange at no charge. Please indicate how many you will need.
6. Invite families connected through adoption or foster care to serve as ushers, greeters or liturgists.
7. Recognize the efforts of those currently in the adoption process and the sacrifice of those who have chosen adoption as a birth option for their children.
8. Make a "world map" display for your lobby with pins on countries of origin of internationally adopted children.
9. Contact Valerie Williams with One Church, One Child and ask how your church can be involved, (314) 340-7032.

Will you please join us in recognizing the adoption community on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>? For more information about Adoption Sunday and Adoption Sunday materials, please call LaRhonda Wilson at The Adoption Exchange, 1 (800) 554-2222.



**One Church  
One Child**  
Of Greater St. Louis  
(314) 340-7032

## **Won't You Please Consider Adoption**

**In Missouri 1,952 children wait for a “forever family”. Most think they don’t have a chance for adoption because they are older than 6 years old, are a part of a sibling group, are of minority heritage, or have a mental, physical or emotional challenge. Despite these challenges, they still need and hope for a family.**

**Are you 21 years or older?**

**Do you rent or own your own residence?**

**Are you willing to learn about our waiting children?**

**Do you have room in your heart and life for a child?**

**You can be considered as an adoptive parent at no cost to you!**

**To find out more about Missouri’s adoption and / or foster care program, call 1 (800) 554-2222.**